Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF August 5, 2002 TO August 9, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Building Permits ($ Millions)	June			The value of building permits in Canada increased 4.6% in June. A 3.5% decrease in residential permits was more than offset by a 19.1% increase in non-residential permits. In the first six months of 2002 building permits in Canada were up 14.2% from the first six months of 2001. Alberta's building permits increased 8.9% in June, due to a 7.5% increase in the residential sector and an 11.6% increase in the non-residential sector. Building permits in Edmonton and Calgary increased 22.0% and 4.0% respectively.
Alberta	553.1	8.9%	26.5%	
Canada	3835.3	4.6%	15.4%	
Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	July			The Canadian help-wanted index increased to 128.3 in July, up 0.5% from June. This is the sixth consecutive increase following 15 months of declines. Gains in Alberta (2.1%), Nova Scotia (1.8%) and British Columbia (1.9%), were partly offset by decreases in Manitoba (-1.9%), Newfoundland (-1.2%) and Ontario (-0.2%).
Alberta	140.2	1.8%	-18.6%	
Canada	128.3	0.5%	-13.9%	
Unemployment Rate	July			A strong increase in employment of 26,000 caused Alberta's unemployment rate to decline 0.6 percentage points to 5.0%. Alberta and Manitoba tied for the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 5.0%. Total Canadian employment increased by only 23,000 in July, less than the increase experienced in Alberta.
Alberta	5.0%	-0.6%	0.6%	
Canada	7.6%	0.1%	0.5%	